

Applic. No. 09/994,742

Amdt. dated June 30, 2004

Reply to Office action of March 31, 2004

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for producing wire binding elements for binding brochures, comprising:

forming a loop in a wire with a mechanism comprising a set of connected components, and varying a dimension of said loop for at least one of said brochures by varying at least one of said components while connected and rotating at least one of said components.

Claims 2-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising forming said loop by moving a bending die in an arc generated by moving two of said components rectilinearly transverse to each other.

Claim 6 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising determining a loop length to form.

Claim 7 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising determining a number of loops to form.

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Claim 8 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising determining a loop length to form based on a thickness of at least one of said brochures.

Claim 9 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising determining a loop length immediately before forming said loop.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising forming a number of connected loops corresponding to a number of perforations along an edge of at least one of said brochures.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising forming several loops corresponding to perforations along an edge of at least one of said brochures.

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising cutting said wire after a determined number of connected loops are formed.

Claims 13-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): An apparatus for producing wire binding elements for binding brochures, comprising:

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a wire loop forming mechanism having a set of connected components, at least one of said components being variable while connected to determine a dimension of said loop for at least one of said brochures, and said components including an arm configured to rotate.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a first collet and a second collet, and a loop length corresponds to half a distance from said first collet to said second collet.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said mechanism is configured to form a plurality of connected loops.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a wire cutter.

Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein one of said components comprises a wire bending die, and wherein said mechanism is configured to move said bending die in arc.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said components include an arm having a variable length and

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configured to rotate.

Claims 31-36 (cancelled)

Claim 37 (new): The process of claim 1, further comprising beginning a bending in an initial position of said components, completing the bending in a final position of said components, and varying said dimension of said loop during a reverse movement of said components from said final position to said initial position.